(c) and (d) Various issues concerning the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy have been considered by the EGoM and it has been decided that the applications for SEZs may be processed for in principle & formal approvals and notifications subject to the condition that the State Governments would not undertake any compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs. Further, Ministry of Rural Development has been requested to reformulate a comprehensive Land Acquisition Act to address all relevant issues and also to work out a comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy ensuring livelihood from the project to at least one person from each displaced family.

Agriculture-based industries in SEZs

†3658. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision for strengthening the economic policy of the country only by setting up of industries in Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) whether there is any consideration for strengthening the economic condition of the country by developing agriculture in the Special Economic Zones; and

(c) the status of agriculture-based industries in such zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zone Rules, 2006 were operationalised with effect from 10th February 2006. The main objectives of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy are generation of additional economic activity; promotion of exports of goods and services; promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources; creation of employment opportunities and development of infrastructure facilities. In 100 new generation SEZs Investments over 35000 Crores have already taken place and over 32578 additional jobs have got created in a short time since operationalisation of the SEZ Act, 2005.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) One agro-based-SEZ has already been notified and another in-principle approval has been given for setting up an agro-based SEZ. Details of the same are as follows:—

Name of State	Name of the Developer	Type of SEZ	Location	Area (in hectares)	Status
Maharashtra	Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC)	Agro	Latur, Maharashtra	200	Notified on 15th January, 2007
Gujarat	Jayant Oils and Derivatives Limited	Chemicals (agro-based)	Village Vilayat, Taluka Vagra, District Bharuch, Gujarat	106	In-principle approval has been granted.

Diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural ventures

3659. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to augment industrialization requiring diversion of agricultural land for promotion of non-agricultural ventures like Special Economic Zones (SEZs) etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof narrating the objectives thereof especially in regard to identification of lands for creation of land Banks for their diversion to ventures like industries, SEZs etc with particular reference to high-yielding arable agricultural lands;

(c) whether concerns are expressed by institutions like RBI and others about SEZs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether those concerns have been addressed;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?